MEMORIAL GIFTS

phone additions or address s to The Reporter, 446-

erican Cancer Society, Gaye nemorial chairman), PO Box ockdale TX 76567.

erican Heart Association, 15186, Austin, TX 78761.

otsie Peebles Memorial ship Fund of the Thursday Club, Joan Ratliff, 915 E. n, Rockdale TX 76567.

nnifer Phillips Memorial ship, Citizen's National Bank- e, PO Box 712, Rockdale TX

y Theater Foundation, c/o erry, PO Box 1048, Rockdale 67; 512/446-2752.

e Linwood Acres Garden Lucille Estell, scholarship an, Rt. 2 Box 87, Thorndale 77.

ove & Learning Center am County, PO Box 998, le TX 76567.

cy Hill Patterson Memorial Melanie Todd (librarian), 201 an, Rockdale, TX 76567.

anor Oaks Nursing Cen- 25 S. FM 487, Rockdale TX

atinee Musical Club Scholar-nd, Marie Gest, 1600 Skyles, ale TX 76567.

ilam Association of Retarded s (MARC), 1705 Pecos St., ale TX 76567.

ilam County 4-H Foundation, Walker, Milam County Exten- gent, 100 E. First, Cameron 520.

ilam County Child Protec-ervices Board, PO Box 425, ale TX 76567.

ilam County Crime Stoppers, x 1122, Cameron, TX 76520; -697-TIPS.

Milam County Genealogi-ociety, Lucy Hill Patterson y, 201 Ackerman, Rockdale, 567.

Milam County Museum, PO 966, Cameron, TX 76520; 697-4770.

Richards Memorial Hospital ary, P.O. Box 1010, Rockdale, 567.

Rockdale Area Caring Friends, Green, 1800 Yokley, Rockdale, 567; (512) 446-5472 or (512) 5624.

Rockdale DARE Program, e Steinbecker, Rockdale Police

100,000-square-foot Supercenter opens Wednesday

New Wal-Mart has 150 more jobs, hands out $17,000 in donations to area organizations

With a focus on 150 new jobs, charitable support and low prices, the newly relocated Wal-Mart Supercenter in Rockdale celebrated its grand opening at 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 23. Doors opened at 7:30 a.m. The store is located at 709 US 79 West.

Originally opened in 1979 at 1500 W. Cameron Ave., the new store has gained more than 55,550 additional square feet. Store manager Linda McFarlin said the new 100,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter features 36 general merchandise departments including apparel and accessories, fine jewelry, a lawn and garden center, health and beauty aids, a full line of electronics and a one-hour photo.

In addition, the store offers a bakery, delicatessen, a frozen food section and meat, dairy and fresh produce sections. It will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will include eight full-service, two express and four self check-out lanes.

"Moving to a larger store is never an easy transition, but the new store looks great," said Mike Polk, a company official in town for the grand opening. Polk said the Rockdale store was one of 18 Wal-Mart Supercenters opening that day and the company had opened as many as 52 in one week.

The Rockdale store's size is a prototype that leaves room for expansion into other services.

Also the site has left room for four more retail spaces which will be leased to other companies.

Wednesday's grand opening ceremony began with an invocation by the Rev. Jack Chelf of First Baptist Church. Boy Scout Troop 740 and Cub Scout Pack 784 presented the colors. The national anthem was performed by Flower Chamblee. Instrumental music was provided by the Rockdale High School band. Participants included Mayor John Shoemake and Chamber of Commerce President Denice Doss, along with store personnel.

COMPANY FACTS

Wal-Mart in Texas—As of Feb. 1, 2005, Wal-Mart employs 135,248 associates and owns and operates the following facilities in Texas: 219 supercenters, 80 discount stores, 28 Neighborhood Markets, 69 SAM'S Clubs, and 14 Distribution Centers.

Taxes—Last year Wal-Mart collected on behalf of the state of Texas more than $1.1 billion in sales taxes and paid more than $193.6 million in state and local taxes.

International—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. operates Wal-Mart Stores, Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets and SAM'S Club locations throughout the U.S. Internationally, the company operates in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

Stock—The company's securities are listed on the New York and Pacific stock exchanges under the symbol WMT. More information about Wal-Mart can be found by visiting *www.walmartfacts.com*. Online merchandise sales are available at *www.walmart.com*.

- Texas Federation of Music Clubs (Matinee Musical Club).
- Thrall Volunteer Fire Department.
- South Milam United Way.

During the past year, Wal-Mart Stores and SAM'S Club locations contributed $17,934,452 to local causes and organizations in the communities they serve in Texas, and raised an additional $5,480,097, for a grand total of $23,414,549.

Reporter/Mike Brown

Above, Wal-Mart Supercenter employees applaud Wednesday morning's speakers near the entrance of the 100,000-square-foot building. Below left, Rockdale store manager Linda McFarlin (with microphone) salutes the three employees who have been with the company since their local opening in October 1979, (L-R) Elvira Villanueva, Evelyn Simmons and Rose Ortega. Below right, Mayor John Shoemake reads a proclamation celebrating the company's $5.7-million investment in Rockdale, which the city hopes will act to attract other economic development.